

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following paragraph at page 3 immediately after line 5:

--Figure 5A is a cross-sectional view of the oil-drip catcher of Figure 1-4 according to another embodiment of the invention. --

Please replace paragraph beginning at line 11 of page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Still referring to Figure 5, one can omit the spacer 22 in other embodiments. For example, the oil-drip catcher 10 may be formed from a flame-retardant material that can be near or actually touch the exhaust pipe 20 without burning. Alternatively, in a region where the pipe 20 is close enough to the oil pan 12 such that it is difficult or impossible to fit the catcher 10 between the pipe 20 and the pan 12 without the catcher 10 burning, one may omit a corresponding portion of the catcher 10. That is, as illustrated in Figure 5A, one may dimension the absorbent material on the catcher with a recess 40, such as, for example, a notch in the region where the pipe 20 is close to the pan 12. In most such cases, because the pipe 20 is so close to the pan 12, the heat from the pipe 20 burns away most of the oil that leaks into or from this region before the oil can flow onto the sides of the pan 12 and drip onto the ground. Therefore, such notching often causes little or no reduction in the effectiveness of the catcher 10.